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For: ART NEWS

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

1916-1966
Fifty Years
1916-1966

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE
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GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY ACQUISITION:

Nepal, late 16th century

64.370 BODHISATTVA MANJUSHRI JANANASATTVA, or, EMBODIMENT OF WISDOM
Gilt bronze sculpture, H. 30-3/4"

Purchase, Leonard C. Hanna Jr. Bequest

from J. J. Heijman, N.Y.

The Bodhisattva Manjushri Jananasattva, or Embodiment of Wisdom, is a Nepalese, late 16th century sculpture of gilt-bronze. Manjushri Jananasattva, seated in vajraparyanka, his legs interlocked, is one of the attendants of Maitreya, the Buddha of the future. His vehicle is the lion. In his aspect as Jananasattva his color is yellow, he has one head and four arms. His attributes are the lotus, a book, bow and arrow. The flower of the lotus is missing in this image, but the stalk with open leaf-forms which would hold the flower is at the top between the two left arms of the god. Also missing are the lion to bear the god and the lotus throne on which he would normally be sitting.

Manjushri has four arms — the lower right and left hands are in a teaching gesture, dharma chakra mudra. The raised right hand perhaps holds an arrow, and the lowered left hand holds a bow. The jewels which adorn Manjushri are crisply rendered and are inlaid with semiprecious stones. The textile, of which the short breeches are made, is patterned in spiraling floral forms, and four short stems with a flower circling around a rosette, and scattered blossoms and a narrow border of leaves or petals; all are incised in the metal. The belt is held in place by a strap tucked in at the back. The Bodhisattva's hair at the back is azurite blue.